



**March Vestry Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 6 p.m.  
Diocesan House Council Room**

*Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.*

**Vestry Members Present**

Tina Blondino, Diocesan Member (Zoom)  
Christopher Breunig  
Martha Craig  
Wayne Duncan  
Greg Hamm, Senior Warden  
Phil Haas, Junior Warden Finance  
Scott Hulet  
Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member (Zoom)  
Kristen Kelly (Zoom)  
Julia Logan, Junior Warden Facilities  
Justin Mills  
Peter Snyder, Junior Warden Stewardship  
Alexandra Thompson  
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean  
Doug Thorpe

**Vestry Members Absent**

Canon Valerie Reinke, Bishop's Representative  
The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member

**Officers Present**

Barbara Erickson, Clerk  
Re Knack, Chancellor

**Officers Absent**

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer

**Staff Members Present**

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator

**Guests**

John Hoerster, Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee Co-Chair (Zoom)  
The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek, Stewardship Consultant (Zoom)

Dean Thomason opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement and a prayer at 6:00 PM. Thanks were given for the delicious meal prepared by Peter and Alexandra.

### **Approval of Vestry Meeting Minutes:**

**A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the January 23, 2024 minutes as amended.**

**A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the Annual Parish February 4, 2024 minutes as published.**

**A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the Vestry Retreat February 10, 2024 minutes as published.**

The order of business was changed due to scheduling with guests.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Audit Process**

Phil Haas reported that the field work between the staff and auditors will be completed by the first half of April. The completion date for the review is June 15.

#### **Bishop Election Process Overview**

Dean Thomason announced the names of the final slate of candidates for the Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia. They are The Rev. Phil LaBelle, The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining, The Ven. Jordan Ware, and The Rev. Kate Wesch. Meet & Greet for the candidates will occur the week of April 29. A Meet & Greet is scheduled for St. Thomas, Medina on May 2. Anyone may attend, but registration is required.

Dates: Saturday, May 18 election at Saint Mark's with voting by the clergy and diocesan delegates from the 2023 Diocesan Convention; Saturday, September 14 Bishop Consecration at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue; Sunday, September 15 Seating of the Bishop at a special Evensong service at Saint Mark's.

#### **Candidacy for Lynne Markova and Kelly Moody**

Dean Thomason provided an update that both Lynne and Kelly are in their second year of seminary with one year left. Candidacy is the next step, with an interview in June, and application for candidacy submitted in May.

**A motion to submit the Letter of Support for Candidacy for Lynne Markova was made, seconded, and passed.**

**A motion to submit the Letter of Support for Candidacy for Kelly Moody was made, seconded, and passed.**

#### **Clergy Housing Resolution for Rich Weyls**

Dean Thomason presented Vestry Resolution #24-FI-02 to permit Richard Weyls to exclude his housing allowance per the Internal Revenue Code Section 107.

**The Vestry Resolution, #24-FI-02 for housing allowance for Richard Weyls, was adopted after a motion was made, seconded, and passed.**

#### **Parochial Report**

The 2022 parochial report was available for comparison. The general tenor is that we are growing, finances are fairly flat, and we are doing well. The number of virtual worshippers attending via live stream was added to the data collected. Our average Sunday attendance is 559.

**A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the 2023 Parochial Report as presented. Vestry Resolution #24-GO-02.**

#### **Safety System for Cathedral Attic Access**

Dean Thomason reported that Marc Aubertin has secured a vendor, Sway Mechanika LLC, to provide a satisfactory and affordable safety system for staff and other vendors to access the attic over the Nave versus the use of 70-foot ladders with no tie offs and required free climbing by anyone accessing the attic. The cost of the system is about \$8,000 and will be capitalized.

**A motion was made, seconded, and passed to purchase the Vertical Lifeline system.**

## **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **Affordable Housing Committee Recommendations**

John Hoerster, Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee (AHEC) Co-Chair, provided background information for the two recommendations he was bringing forth to the Vestry. The recommendations are:

- 1) Vestry authorization the “commencement of the process to select a development partner”. John reiterated that no decisions about the direction have been made.
- 2) Vestry support for the redrawing of the “Lot Boundary Adjustment between the two parcels owned by St. Mark’s Properties LLC that comprise the St. Nicholas site.”

Discussion took place about the selection of a development partner with many questions asked by Vestry and answered by John.

**A motion was made, seconded, and passed authorizing the Exploratory Committee to begin the process of selecting a development partner.**

The second recommendation from the AHEC would straighten out the jagged boundary line between the properties on advice from the land use counsel, Hillis Clark & Peterson. This will allow for potential phased construction should we come to need that.

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved to support the recommendation for the Lot Boundary Adjustment between the two parcels owned by St. Mark’s Properties LLC that comprise the St. Nicholas site.**

### **Stewardship Consultant, The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek**

The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek spoke over Zoom to the Vestry and provided statistics about pledgers and non-pledgers at Saint Mark’s and energetically offered the following thoughts:

- Encourage the non-pledgers to give and give them reasons why – it is a spiritual practice.
- What is God calling me to give? Suggest the “Power of One” – give one hour of your weekly income to the church.
- Giving to God through the work of Saint Mark’s – mission to transform lives.
- Not understanding what “pledging” is or what it means.
- Thank those who pledge and tell how giving changes lives and their spiritual growth with focus on those receiving gifts.
- Extend an invitation to people to join – you can be a part of this too.
- Personal testimonies are something we do, kids to give in smaller amount. Young people who pledge are inspiring.
- Individual one-on-one discussions, already donate to other organization would you support the church if the church is feeding you?

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Strategic Planning Next Steps**

Dean Thomason and the wardens feel we have a good Strategic Plan and with it come opportunities for the Vestry and its standing committees to support the document and high-level strategic initiatives it invites us to consider. It is not intended to provide a benchmark review as done with the Mutual Ministry Goals, but more of a check of the six initiatives to see where we are being guided by that plan.

### **Mutual Ministry Goals**

Greg Hamm, Senior Warden presented a draft version of the 2024 Mutual Ministry Goals.

1. Lay groundwork for a capital campaign that funds key strategic projects related to being net carbon zero by 2030; enhancing the aesthetic and infrastructure needs of the Nave; support for cathedral music through endowment gifts.
2. Year-round stewardship campaign
3. Ongoing exploration of Affordable Housing on cathedral campus

Discussion occurred about each item, especially the capital campaign and that the time is now to meet our 2030 net carbon zero goal. Scott Hulet and Christopher Breunig offered to help Greg with wordsmithing the Mutual Ministry Goals.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **Senior Warden**

- *The Holy Box* by Dean Leffler is encouraging if one needs a lift.
- There is an interest in engaging the 20s/30s group and former Vestry members who are younger.
- Interested in attending the Newcomer Coffee Hour on the first Sunday? Let Greg know.

### **Dean**

- Electric heat pumps are working in Thomsen Chapel.
- Change in the nave lighting in attic section; the \$25,000 rebate money arrived.
- Bloedel renovation planning for flooring, kitchen items and windows replacements.
- At the funeral reception for Doreen Tudor, the family was “blown away” by the hospitality (led by Virginia Lenker), generosity and grace of this parish. Roger Leed’s funeral is on April 4, and Theresa Cochrane’s is April 13.
- Cathedral Day is Saturday, April 27.
- Planning for the Center for Spirituality and Action in Leffler House is underway.
- Watercolor drawings as potential gifts to Cathedral Legacy Society members were shared.
- Holy Week is next week and is a deeply meaningful time and exhausting time for your staff. Be mindful of this and thank them.
  - Files of Note
    - Thank You Letters: AFEDJ, Diocese of Hawaii (Maui Fires), Earth Ministry.
    - Thomsen Chapel Door Renovation Project – April 16 will be removed for restoration.
    - Lewis Memorial Vases for Chapel.

## **MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Worship & Prayer**

Julia Logan. They met on March 10 and discussed the introduction and first chapter of the book, *The Great Emergence*, by Phyllis Tickle.

### **Finance**

Phil Haas. Financial statements are available, but the committee met March 18, so the minutes will be available next month.

### **Facilities**

Julia Logan. The Emergency Preparedness Manual is close to being done.

### **Creation Care**

Doug Thorpe. A Duwamish River trip is being planned for this summer; a Creation Care forum will be held on April 14. A meeting with The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson regarding climate change is also scheduled.

### **Restorative Justice**

Scott Hulet. The March meeting began with technical challenges, but nevertheless had a productive conversation.

### **Communications**

Wayne Duncan. Met with Erik Bauer, archivist for the Diocese of Olympia and Saint Mark's, and as part of our general orientation toward communications, learned what he does, talked about how we message the cathedral community about important things and the retention of those communications.

### **CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER**

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Julia Logan. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson  
Clerk

Erik Donner  
Cathedral Administrator

#### Dates/Events of note

3/24—3/30	Holy Week
3/31	Easter Day
4/27	Cathedral Day